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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: KPAO, PREL, US, OIIP
SUBJECT: COALITION WORKING GROUP PD MORNING REPORT,
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2002

MEDIA/OPINION CLIMATE ABROAD

1. MEDIA RHETORIC ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION--VIRTUALLY
ALL OF IT CRITICAL OF ISRAEL AND THE U.S.--IS MORE AND
MORE ASSUMING AN APOCALYPTIC TONE: RELIGIOUS/MARTYRDOM
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THEMES ARE EMERGING AMONG THE ARABS, WITH A WAR OF
CIVILIZATIONS POPULAR IN THE WEST. DESPITE AN ASSUMPTION
OF A U.S. BIAS TOWARD ISRAEL, CALLS FOR AMERICAN
INTERVENTION ARE GROWING IN THE NON-ARAB MEDIA, WHILE THE
ARABS ARE LOOKING TO THE UN:

-- THE PALESTINIANS ALONE INVENTED THE ART OF ACHIEVING
RIGHTS THROUGH STRUGGLE. THE PALESTINIAN MARTYRS-IN-
WAITING, READY TO BECOME BOMBS EXPLODING EVERYWHERE, ARE
THE TANKS OF THE FUTURE UNLESS THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL
STRUCTURE RETURNS TO REASON.
(AL-RIYAD--SAUDI ARABIA)

-- IT APPEARS THAT STEPPED-UP FEDAIYIIN OPERATIONS
[DEFINED ELSEWHERE AS SUICIDE BOMBINGS], COUPLED WITH
INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO IMPLEMENT THE SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION, WILL LEAD TO THE DISINTEGRATION OF SHARONS
REGIME. (AL-AHRAM)

-- WITH REFERENCE TO PRESS ACCUSATIONS OF SUMMARY
EXECUTIONS BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS, EMBASSY RIYADH NOTED,
SEVERAL SAUDIS HAVE ASKED US WHETHER THE USG INTENDS TO
PUSH FOR WAR CRIMES PROSECUTIONS AT THE HAGUE.
(RIYADH 1609)

-- ARAFATS SOLITUDE AND THE COLLECTIVE ERADICATION OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE CRIMES COMMITTED WITH THE
COMPLICITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT IS NOT ARAB
WEAKNESS THAT MAKES US ANGRY, BUT THE OPEN TREACHERY OF
ARAB LEADERS (SOUT AL-AHRAR--ALGIERS)

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-- ONE THING IS CLEAR. THE U.S. HAS NO NEW INITIATIVE TO OFFER. THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO SPEAK ONLY OF THE TENET AND THE MITCHELL PLANS, INITIATIVES FIRST PROPOSED LAST YEAR. (SYDNEY MORNING HERALD)

-- THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEEDS TO IMMEDIATELY ASK ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET IN A THIRD COUNTRY TO DISCUSS A CEASEFIRE. (ASAHI--TOKYO)

-- THE ONLY WORLD LEADER CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS GEORGE BUSH. (HE) NO LONGER HAS ANY ALTERNATIVE (CORRIERE DELLA SERA)

-- AL-QAIDAS GOAL IS TO CONVERT THE WHOLE PLANET TO A RADICAL FORM OF ISLAM. ARAFAT IS A REAL, ELECTED SPOKESPERSON HAVING A REASON; BIN LADEN IS NOTHING BUT AN HALLUCINATING, ILLEGITIMATE GHOST. PALESTINIAN TERRORISM, ALTHOUGH BARBARIC, IS NEVERTHELESS LOCALIZED AND HOMEMADE. AT LEAST WE CAN DENOUNCE A RHETORIC WHICH DOES NOT APPLY TO THE SITUATION. (LA PRESSE--MONTREAL)

TURKEY, ISAF, AND AN AFGHAN ARMY: IN MID-MARCH, BUSH'S MINIONS WERE MANEUVERING TO LIMIT PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN--MEANING THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT CARE MUCH IF THE COUNTRY DISINTEGRATED. TO WIN TURKEY OVER, THE U.S. HAD TO NIX THE IDEA OF A LARGER ISAF. (DAWN--PAKISTAN) AN ISTANBUL PAPER DEPLORED THE FACT THAT TURKISH ISAF TROOPS WILL BE FORCED TO ASSUME THE BLAME FOR THE RUTHLESS U.S. BOMBING OF THE PAST THREE MONTHS. (ANADOLUDA VAKIT)

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ABU ZUBAYDA: AFP IS CARRYING A STORY THAT THE PAKISTANIS ARE RED-FACED OVER THE APPREHENSION OF THE BIN LADEN DEPUTY ON THEIR TERRITORY, GIVEN THEIR PAST CLAIMS THAT THE BORDER WAS SEALED. OTHER PAPERS CARRY SECRETARY RUMFELDS DENIAL THAT THE U.S. PLANS TO MOVE ABU ZUBAIDA TO A THIRD COUNTRY WHERE TORTURE COULD BE USED. (TIMES OF OMAN, BBC, GUARDIAN)

PUBLIC APPEARANCES BY STATE AND OTHER OFFICIALS

APRIL 4: SECRETARY POWELL INTERVIEW WITH THE ECONOMIST.

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PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ACTIONS

U.S. UNIVERSITIES INTERESTED IN ATTRACTING STUDENTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST WILL MEET WITH EDUCATIONAL ADVISERS FROM THE REGION DURING A MAY WORKSHOP IN WASHINGTON. THE OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS HAS AGREED TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM, WHICH IS BRINGING ADVISERS FROM EIGHT COUNTRIES TO MEET WITH 27 U.S. UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES. (ECA)

THE AFTER SEPTEMBER 11 PHOTO EXHIBIT IN MANILA DREW MORE THAN 34,000 PEOPLE FROM MARCH 17 TO APRIL 2. (EAP/PD)

2. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
POWELL

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